

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 29-32 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 1-11 and 29-32 have been cancelled. Claim 15 has been amended. New claims 33-35 have been added. Accordingly, claims 12-22 and 33-35 are currently under consideration. No new matter has been added.

With respect to claim amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated to the public or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution to any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that Claims 12-22 are found allowable over the cited art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 33-35, which depend from claims 13 or 14 directly or indirectly, merely recite specific species recited in claims 13 and 14, and thus should also be allowable.

Claim Objections

Claim 28 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 28 has been cancelled, thus obviating the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-11 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,674,598. Claims 1-7 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 02/20696 and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0032192.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 1-7 and 28-30 have been cancelled, thus obviating the rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-6, 8, and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,891,361. Claims 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,674,698.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 1-6, 8, and 28-32 have been cancelled, thus obviating the rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 514572002600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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